30th January 1929]

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" Not later than two months."

Mr. A. KALESWARA RAO :—" May I know whether Government believe some drinking is good to the body, but not excessive drinking ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" I do not know what the hon. Member exactly means. Personally, I do not believe any drinking is good for the health."

Mr P. BHAKTAVATSULU NAYUDU :—" Does Government at least think that some drinking is at least necessary for the human body ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" Government does not think it is necessary, but the people who drink think it necessary."

Work done by Plague Inspectors in the Presidency.

* 1191 Q.—Mr. K. UPPI SAHIB : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total number of Plague Inspectors in this Presidency and the districts where they are employed ;

(*b*) whether it is a fact that most of them have put in a total temporary service of from 20 to 25 years and that their appointments are being sanctioned only for six months at a time, April and October every year ;

(*c*) whether it is a fact that in several Plague Inspectors' ranges there has been no plague or there has not been any severe attack of plague and that such attacks were confined to one or two months in each year during the past five years 1922–23 to 1926–27 ; and

(*d*) whether the Government will give a statement of attacks and deaths from plague in each Plague Inspector's range for the past five years 1922–23 to 1926–27 ?

A.—(*a*) Twenty-six, in the districts of Bellary, Coimbatore, Kistna, Kurnool, Madura, Malabar, the Nilgiris and Salem.

(*b*) As far as information is available, five persons have put in 20 or more years of service. The answer to the latter part of the question is yes.

(*c*) The Government have no information.

(*d*) The information is not available.

Mr. K. UPPI SAHIB :—" May I know whether there is any reason why the salary of the Plague Inspectors are sanctioned only for six months ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" Because Government think that their services throughout the year are not necessary."

Mr. K. UPPI SAHIB :—" May I know why at least five people are kept on for the last twenty years ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" Because that is not a permanent staff of the Government and they consider that plague will disappear from the province in course of time."

Mr. K. UPPI SAHIB :—" May I know whether these five people who have been serving Government for the last twenty years, are entitled to pension for their long service ? "

The hon. Mr. S. MUTHIAH MUDALIYAR :—" That requires examination, and so I want notice."

[30th January 1929

Mr. K. Uppi Sahib :—" May I know whether any proposal is under the consideration of Government to make these officers permanent or to convert them into health officers ? "

The hon. Mr. S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—" Notice, Sir."

Registration

Simplification of the orders regarding levy of fees on encumbrance certificates in the Registration department.

* 1192 *Q.*—Mr. D. Narayana Raju : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state whether Government have taken any steps to simplify the orders on the levy of fees on encumbrance certificates issued in the Registration department ?

A. - The answer is in the negative.

Mr. D. Narayana Raju :—" May I know whether the Government have considered the hardship caused by the rules regarding encumbrance certificates pointed out to Government in the course of budget discussions last March ? "

The hon Mr S. Muthiah Mudaliyar :—" The hon. Member asks in what ways the orders are proposed to be simplified. So far as I am able to see, the rules are as simple as possible, but if the hon. Member means the question of reduction of fees, that is a different matter."

Water-supply

Alleged memorials against the levy of water-tax in Tiruvannamalai municipality.

* 1193 *Q.*—Mr. T. Adinarayana Chettiyar : Will the hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the rate-payers of Tiruvannamalai municipality, North Arcot district, sent a mahazar to Government protesting against the levy of water-tax by the municipality and requesting the Government not to sanction loans for a water-supply scheme for their town ;

(*b*) what is the amount proposed to be borrowed by the municipality for this scheme and how the municipality proposes to repay the amount ;

(*c*) whether Government propose to excuse repayment of the loan on the ground that Tiruvannamalai is a noted pilgrim centre ;

(*d*) whether the municipality has to find any sums in addition to the proposed Government loan or grant ;

(*e*) whether the municipality has sent in any proposals to Government for the levy of water-tax and if so, what orders have been passed by Government thereon ;

(*f*) what is the security which Government have demanded or propose to demand for their loan if no water-tax is to be levied ;

(*g*) what is the incidence of municipal taxation as it already exists ; and

(*h*) whether Government will make thorough enquiries into the capacity of the rate-payers to bear any additional burden before they allow this municipality to levy a water-tax ?